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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Zambia and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

Special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Recalling also all resolutions of the Security Council and statements by its President regarding the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Reaffirming the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all States in the region,

Gravely concerned at the dire humanitarian, economic and social situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and at the effects on the inhabitants of the continued fighting in the eastern part, resulting in the continuing plight of the civilian population, and calling for its protection, taking into account the particular needs of women and girls,

Deeply concerned at the HIV/AIDS pandemic and at its disproportionate effect on women and girls,

Expressing its deep concern at the dire consequences of the conflict for the humanitarian and human rights situations in the country, particularly in the provinces of North and South Kivu and in the Ituri district, and at the continuing lack of sufficient access to vulnerable people,

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Gravely concerned by the continued illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a source of further conflict, and reaffirming in this regard its commitment to respect the sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of the Congo over its natural resources,

Gravely concerned also at the negative impact of war on the promotion of sustainable development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region,

Deeply concerned about the continued extensive destruction of life and property, as well as the severe damage to infrastructure and the environment suffered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Bearing in mind the fact that the Democratic Republic of the Congo hosts thousands of refugees from neighbouring countries, which places a great burden on its limited resources, and expressing the hope that conditions will be created that will facilitate a safe and voluntary return of refugees,

Recalling that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a least developed country with severe economic and social problems arising from its weak economic infrastructure and aggravated by the ongoing conflict,

Bearing in mind the close interrelationship between ensuring peace and security and the ability of the country to meet the humanitarian needs of its people and to take effective steps towards the rapid revitalization of the economy, and reaffirming the urgent need to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of its damaged economy and in its efforts to restore basic services and the infrastructure of the country,

Reaffirming its support for the process of the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement on the Transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, signed in Pretoria on 17 December 2002, welcoming the efforts made to date for its implementation by the Government of National Unity and Transition, and calling upon all the Congolese parties to honour their commitments in this regard, in particular so that free, fair and peaceful elections can take place within the agreed time frame,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Welcomes* the signature of the terms of reference of the Joint Verification Mechanism, which marked the successful conclusion of the first meeting of the group of eminent African personalities held in New York on 22 September 2004 under the auspices of the Secretary-General, and urges the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda to cooperate actively in assuring security along their common borders, in particular by implementing agreements they have signed for the establishment of joint verification mechanisms with the active participation of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with a view to fostering confidence and building good-neighbourly relations;

3. *Also welcomes* the convening of the international conference on peace, security, democracy and development in the Great Lakes region of Africa, with inclusive participation by all the Governments concerned, under the aegis of the

[1] See A/59/293.

African Union and the United Nations, with a view to strengthening stability in the region and working out conditions that will enable each State to enjoy the right to live in peace and with dignity;

4. *Further welcomes* the coordination by the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, of all the activities of the United Nations system in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, aimed at ensuring a coherent and effective response to the multifaceted humanitarian crisis in the country;

5. *Emphasizes* that the consolidation of peace and the resumption of economic activity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are inextricably linked, and calls for further international economic assistance in that regard;

6. *Recalls* the link between the illicit exploitation and trade of natural resources in certain regions and the fuelling of the conflict and, in line with Security Council resolutions 1493 (2003) of 28 July 2003, 1533 (2004) of 12 March 2004 and 1552 (2004) of 27 July 2004, condemns categorically the illicit exploitation of natural resources and other forms of wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, urges all States, especially those in the region, to take appropriate steps to end such illegal activities, including, if necessary, through judicial means, and exhorts the international financial institutions to assist the Government of National Unity and Transition in establishing efficient, legitimate and transparent control of the exploitation of natural resources;

7. *Encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to pursue the implementation of economic reforms aimed at stabilizing the macroeconomic framework so that conditions for sustainable growth can be created;

8. *Urges* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to implement national comprehensive strategies to monitor and manage the external liabilities embedded in the domestic preconditions for debt sustainability, including sound macroeconomic and public resource management;

9. *Welcomes* initiatives that are undertaken to reduce outstanding indebtedness, and invites further national and international measures in that direction, including, as appropriate, debt cancellation and other arrangements;

10. *Invites* the development partners to cover the funding shortfall of the emergency multisectoral rehabilitation and reconstruction programme and to support civil service reform and efforts to reunify the country;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to provide coordinated and targeted assistance in key areas of the transition, which can be achieved through tighter coordination of political and economic actors to ensure that donor funds are used to support the political strategy, the provision of advisory expertise, financial support, training and equipment for security reform, the provision of assistance in building provincial administration, improving the delivery of basic social services and accelerating the reunification of customs and immigration services, and the provision of flexible budgetary support to provide the funds necessary to cover basic civil services and the salaries of civil servants;

12. *Calls upon* Member States, the international organizations concerned and the community of donors to provide their full support to the transitional process, the

extension of State authority throughout the territory and long-term social and economic development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

13. *Urges* all parties to fully respect international humanitarian law and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel to all affected populations throughout the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the safety of United Nations and humanitarian personnel;

14. *Calls upon* the international community to increase its support for humanitarian relief activities within the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

15. *Urges* all parties to permit free and unhindered movement of the population, which is essential, inter alia, to the resumption of economic activities;

16. *Expresses its deep concern* especially at the very serious, dire humanitarian situation in Ituri, and calls upon all Congolese parties on the ground to cooperate fully, in general, with the institutions of the transition and, in particular, within the Ituri Pacification Commission;

17. *Also expresses its deep concern* over the dire humanitarian situation throughout the country and the very high number of internally displaced persons in the eastern part and, in particular, in the Ituri region, and urges all parties to avoid further population displacement and to facilitate the safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their places of origin;

18. *Stresses once again* the importance of the full restoration of river traffic, and, in that regard, calls for the reopening of the Kisangani-Kindu rail and river link to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, as well as resupply access for humanitarian personnel;

19. *Encourages* the continued cooperation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the United Nations, the specialized agencies, international financial institutions and other organizations, including non-governmental organizations, in addressing the need for rehabilitation and reconstruction;

20. *Renews its appeal* to the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to continue to keep under consideration the special needs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and stresses the need to mainstream an appropriate gender perspective within overall reconstruction efforts;

21. *Invites* Governments to continue providing support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to consult with regional leaders in coordination with the President of the African Union about ways to bring about a peaceful and durable solution to the conflict;

(b) To keep under review the humanitarian and economic situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a view to promoting participation in and support for a programme of financial and material assistance to the country to enable it to meet urgent needs in terms of economic recovery and reconstruction;

(c) To submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution.